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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PEACE-KEEPING
OPERATIONS

COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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REPLY RECEIVED FROM A GOVERNMENT

Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic 2

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[14 May 1991]

The world has recently witnessed a significant, steady growth in the scale and effectiveness of United Nations efforts aimed at the maintenance of international peace and security. Major improvements in international relations and the affirmation of a new political thinking in those relations have contributed to this process. The transition from the era of the "cold war", marked by opposition and rivalry between blocs, and also the strengthening of the spirit of partnership, reciprocity and cooperation within the international community aimed at achieving the lofty goals proclaimed in the United Nations Charter and the shaping of a more democratic and more equitable world order are creating a climate conducive to further enhancing the role of the United Nations and more fully tapping its peace-making potential.

Peace-keeping operations occupy an important place in United Nations activities for the safeguarding of international peace and security. Their use has expanded considerably and their range of functions and sphere of application have grown substantially. They are also becoming increasingly complex.

The Ukrainian SSR supports the active use of United Nations peace-keeping operations in resolving international conflicts and is encouraged by their qualitative evolution. Accordingly, it has on more than one occasion recently expressed its views on ways of further enhancing the effectiveness of this important international mechanism. Its positions of principle on the wider use of United Nations peace-making potential were set forth in the Soviet memorandum entitled "The United Nations in the post-confrontation world" (document A/45/626).

In its practical activities, the United Nations must try to understand life's new challenges and deal with them in a timely manner. In this connection, it should be said that the Persian Gulf crisis was a serious test for the international community. We believe that its lessons merit careful consideration. The crisis once again very clearly confirmed the importance of collective efforts to determine ways of resolving crisis situations on the basis of strict adherence to the universally recognized principles and norms of international law. At the same time, the need to counteract the Iraqi aggression and restore law and order in the region demonstrated that a whole range of issues relating to the creation, under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, of an integral and effective operational mechanism for reacting to acts of aggression and threats to international peace and security, including the application of enforcement measures and armed force, must be thoroughly studied and considered in the United Nations.

The crisis in the Persian Gulf confirmed that more active use must be made, in peace-keeping operations, of preventive methods aimed primarily at ensuring advance warning of the emergence of crisis situations and conflicts. In this connection, a practical review should be made of the question of establishing United Nations posts in regions of conflict and expanding the Organization's possibilities in the area of the collection and analysis of information on the real situation in places where there is a potential and real threat to general security, including the dispatch of fact-finding missions and the use of modern technological means.

The proposals for the creation under United Nations auspices of a multilateral centre for reducing the risk of war and for the establishment of a group of experts on emergency actions are very important in this context.

The facts show that even now, when the process of establishing new, civilized relations among States is under way, regressive acts of aggression or threats to international peace are still possible and that it is small States above all that suffer from this.

We believe that the need to forestall such occurrences demands that consideration be given to expanding the use of peace-keeping operations requested by small States in need of security guarantees or protection on the part of the United Nations. Such operations could be conducted on the basis of an agreement between these countries and the United Nations and in accordance with a resolution of the Security Council.

One important factor in enhancing the effectiveness of peace-keeping operations are the measures being taken under a General Assembly decision to set up a reserve of military and other personnel, and also material and technical resources, needed for United Nations operations. The growth in the number of States which are seeking, through some form of participation in peace-keeping operations, to contribute to United Nations peace-making efforts will undoubtedly facilitate rotation and the achievement of equitable geographical representation of States participating in such operations, something which will enhance the authority and effectiveness of United Nations actions still further.

The Ukrainian SSR is striving to make its contribution to the above activities. We are pleased to note that the services of the Ukrainian air transport company Ruslan are being used in United Nations operations to ship bulk cargoes by air. The Ukrainian SSR will continue to contribute in all possible ways to United Nations peace-keeping operations.

Strengthening their financial base is essential to the conduct of such operations. To solve this problem, we think it is necessary to rely not only on the usual practice of charging the corresponding assessed contributions to Member States, but also to look more actively for alternative sources of financing, in particular, to draw on voluntary contributions (from transnational corporations, non-governmental organizations and private sources) and to conduct international fund-raising campaigns for United

Nations operations. At the same time, we believe that thought should be given both to establishing a large reserve and to investigating the possibility of reducing the time-frames of operations. Consideration should also be given to exercising economy in the allocation of resources to operations and in determining the number of participating military and other personnel and the technology provided. It would also be advisable to study possible ways for host States and regional organizations to help reduce expenditures on United Nations operations.

The growing use of peace-keeping operations and their increasing complexity raise the question of institutionalizing the mechanism of such operations and giving them the necessary legal basis. The idea of the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of a detailed declaration, which in addition to analysing the experience gained and new trends in this field would also systematize the basic organizational aspects of the conduct of United Nations peace-keeping operations and indicate ways of enhancing their effectiveness, seems useful in this connection.

The adoption of such a document would contribute to further enhancing the effectiveness of peace-keeping operations, to expanding their role in the world community's efforts to resolve and forestall international conflicts and to developing international relations on a peaceful, secure and stable basis.